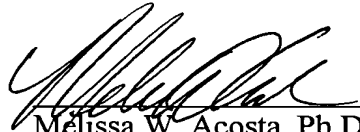


these amendments do not narrow the scope of the claims within the meaning of *Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., Ltd.*, 234 F.3d 558, 586, 56 USPQ2d 1865, 1886 (Fed. Cir. 2000).

Applicant does not believe that there is a fee required to file this preliminary amendment. If applicant is in error, applicant authorizes the Commissioner to charge any required fees to the Deposit Account No. 06-2375/10102583, from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Melissa W. Acosta, Ph.D.  
Registration No. 45,872

Date:

April 30, 2001

Fulbright & Jaworski, L.L.P.  
1301 McKinney, Suite 5100  
Houston, Texas 77010-3095  
(713) 651-5407 Telephone  
(713) 651-5246 Facsimile